

Docket No. F-7216

Ser. No. 10/009,164

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A prismatic battery case manufacturing method comprising:

a first process step for forming a first intermediate cup element having a substantially elliptic cross section by subjecting a battery case material punched into a predetermined shape to deep drawing;

a second process step for forming a second intermediate cup element having a substantially elliptic cross section which is smaller in minor-axis-diameter to major-axis-diameter ratio than the cross section of the first intermediate cup element by subjecting the first intermediate cup element to redrawing successively in a plural stages; and

a third process step for forming a prismatic battery case having a substantially rectangular cross section in which a shorter-side plate is made larger in thickness than a longer-side plate by subjecting the second intermediate cup

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element to DI processing, wherein drawing and ironing are performed successively at a time.

11. (Previously Presented) The prismatic battery case manufacturing method according to claim 10, wherein, at least in a first redrawing at the second process step, with use of a drawing die having a substantially elliptic drawing hole whose major-axis-diameter is 5 to 20 % longer than a major-axis-diameter of the first intermediate cup element, the first intermediate cup element is given a substantially elliptic cross section which is smaller in minor-axis-diameter to major-axis-diameter ratio than the cross section of the first intermediate cup element by performing drawing in such a way that only the dimension in a minor-axis-diameter direction is reduced without restricting the dimension in a major-axis-diameter direction.

12. (Previously Presented) The prismatic battery case manufacturing method according to any one of claims 10 and 11, wherein the battery case material is punched into a substantially oval shape at the first process step.

13. (Canceled)